MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 JANUARY 1981

American Hostages

An unattributed commentary carried by Tehran radio on 31 December bluntly warned that a "trial of the hostages...might lead to their execution." In a rebroadcast of the commentary on 1 January, however, the radio deleted the execution threat, saying instead that a "trial of the hostages will lay bare the unwarranted interference of imperialism in other countries." Both the original threat and subsequent rewording came at the end of the commentary's review of the negotiations and Iran's conditions for release of the hostages and its denunciation of U.S. propaganda efforts and military threats. Replaying earlier calls for a trial, the commentary said that if the United States "does not return Iran's assets the trial of the hostages is certain" and added that Iran "will never compromise" over the conditions or be conciliatory, something U.S. officials "should clearly bear...in mind."

Meanwhile, Ayatollah Yahya Nuri called on the Iranian Government to halt its negotiations with the United States over release of the hostages and to put them on trial immediately. According to AFP, the clergyman told the newspaper Tehran TIMES that the current negotiations are "misguided" and that Iran's conditions have been wrongly portrayed as a ransom demand, something contrary to Islamic law.

Tehran radio, citing the newspaper ETTELA'AT, reported that Islamic Republican Party leader Ayatollah Mohammad Hoseyn Beheshti also stressed that the trial of the hostages will proceed if the United States does not accept Iran's conditions for their release.

Iranian Domestic Affairs

According to PARS, Iranian Justice Minister Ebrahim Ahadi abruptly resigned on 31 December. While the news agency gave no reason for his action, a Tehran radio correspondent, in an interview with Ayatollah Beheshti, noted that Ahadi had complained in an earlier television interview that the Council of Guardians had severely limited his authority, possibly prompting his resignation. In his comments Beheshti acknowledged that some questions had arisen regarding the role of the justice minister in the operation of the judicial branch and as a member of the executive branch.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Call for Action--Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri urged the Iranian Armed Forces to take the offensive in the war with Iraq. In a telegram to Ahvaz religious leaders, cited by PARS, Montazeri asked whether the present military strategy of delay is worth the cost in lives and whether the Supreme Defense Council "has clearly informed" Ayatollah Khomeyni about the current situation. He called on the Ahvaz clergy to raise the issue with Khomeyni and in the Majlis.

According to Tehran radio, an Ahvaz deputy did raise the question before a Majlis session, asking the armed forces commander in chief to explain the "reason for the lack of effective action" against the Iraqi forces.

Military Situation--While Tehran radio noted that falling temperatures and rain have caused "a marked decrease" in the fighting, it continued to report artillery exchanges around Ilam, along Ahvaz-Khuninshahr highway, and Iraqi missile attacks on Dezful, Susangerd and Abadan. Iraqi artillery continued to pound Ahvaz, the radio said, killing 44 residents. An Iraqi General Command communique carried by Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses reported small skirmishes between Iraqi and Iranian troops near Mehran, Shush, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Susangerd.

Israel

Israeli Air Force planes attacked Palestinian bases near Tyre and An-Nabatiyah in Lebanon on 31 December. Jerusalem radio, citing an Israeli Defense Forces spokesman, reported that Israeli pilots also downed two Syrian MiG's that tried to intercept the raid, suffering no losses themselves.

Afghanistan

President Babrak Karmal asserted that his forces have "broken the back" of the insurgency in Afghanistan and claimed that the rebel remnants will "disappear soon." In an interview with UNITED NEWS OF INDIA, reported by AFP, Karmal indicated that a large number of the insurgents had been "liquidated" in the current offensive, a claim echoed by Kabul radio in its recent reports of anti-insurgent activity. The Afghan president described the Soviet forces in the country as a "reserve" against possible outside agression.

Education Minister Anahita Ratebzad also stressed Afghanistan's success against the rebels in remarks reported by TASS. Ratebzad, who is in India to attend a women's conference, said that Afghanistan "has put down on the whole" the "counterrevolutionary elements and is fully in control" of the country.

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POSSIBILITY OF HOSTAGES' TRIAL, EXECUTION RAISED

LD311958 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1720 GMT 31 Dec 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Ever since the day the American spy hostages were captured by the heroic Iranian nation, America was faced with a difficult and painful choice. In the early days after the occupation of the embassy Iran asked for the return of the deposed shah and the wealth which he had plundered from Iran and had sent to foreign countries. America was faced with an amazing deadlock. Had it returned the traitorous shah to Iran it would have lost the trust of all its mercenaries in the Third World because they would have clearly seen and felt that they are of value to America only as long as they are a good servant, but as soon as they are deposed from their position and rank they are no longer of any value to their masters.

Although this is, in fact, true and American mercenaries have no value in themselves for America and are valuable only as long as they can assist imperialism in its plunder in their role of mercenaries and gendarmes of imperialism in various corners of the world, had America decided to give a positive response to Iranian demands it would have completely lost the trust of its mercenaries in the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, Latin America, Africa, Southeast Asia and, in brief, throughout the world. These countries would have tried to adopt other policies vis-a-vis America and to turn, to some extent, to their own people so that they be not completely lacking a base among their people. Also, the return of the plundered wealth of the shah would have given rise to the protests of thousands of fugitives who are, at the moment, living in ease and comfort as a result of these plundered funds. In addition to that, America has a great need for these assets and these lackeys of the former regime in order to organize conspiracies and plots against Iran.

Eventually, the shah died and the question of the extradition of the shah ceased to be an issue. However, the position of Iran remained the same until the complete realization of its rights. The imam delegated the issue of the spy hostages to the Islamic Consultative Assembly which was elected by the nation. The Majlis also set four conditions for the release of the hostages: An American guarantee to refrain from interfering in Iranian affairs, the return of the shah's wealth, the return of the frozen Iranian assets in American banks, and, finally, the claims of the American capitalists and companies against Iran.

However, the plundering capitalists began finding excuses and said that many of these conditions are not within Carter's ability and that he will not be able to give a positive answer to these demands. Iran could not accept these excuses. In order to show greater good will and in view of the doubts which existed concerning American guarantees the Iranian Government announced that America should deposit some funds in a third country agreed on by the two sides. This deposit was requested because Iran did not wish to be deceived by imperialism or to put its trust in their empty, weak and unreliable promises. But, as could be foreseen, the enemy has again made excuses and has described Iran's legitimate demands as demanding and taking ransom. In their mass media they have, in unison, called Iranians barbarians, savages and uncivilized.

Reagan has said that if he gives a positive reply to Iranian demands the terrorists of the world will be encouraged to commit such acts. Zionist newspapers have called the Iranian legitimate demands, which are the minimum which could be demanded, as the greatest ransom demand in history.

The issue is that America is again facing great difficulties in this connection. These difficulties are the result of aggression and exploitation which are the essence of imperialism. If America does not return Iran's assets, the trial of the hostages is certain. At the same time, returning the wealth of the shah may give rise to the protests of many Iranian fugitives who are making use of these assets, at a time when America is trying not to displease them.

America no longer has any excuse to continue blocking Iranian assets, although to date it has tried to justify this blocking by means of various excuses. But Iran's good will on the issue of the hostages has deprived imperialism of its excuses. If the United States continues to persist in this matter it will damage its financial and banking reputation and others will hesitate to deposit their funds in American banks, because they will think of the probability that their assets will have the same fate as the Iranian assets.

The most important point is that the enemy imagines that it can take advantage of the supposedly difficult conditions which it has created for Iran. It has regarded the relatively positive position of Iran, which has agreed to resolve the problem through discussion, as a sign of its weakness. It has imagined that the war has politically isolated Iran and that Iran feels the need to extricate itself from this isolation and to reexamine its relations with capitalist countries. Also, it has imagined that the war has caused deadly economic weakness for Iran and that in order to remedy these weaknesses Iran greatly needs its frozen assets, so that it may refurbish its disorganized economy.

It has also imagined that Iran's grappling with these problems has had a negative effect on the morale of its people and has given rise to dissatisfaction among the people. This is why it imagines that if it continues to put pressure on Iran the people's dissatisfaction will increase and the people will put greater pressure on the central government to resolve the problem. With such an evaluation of Iran's position it believes that if it puts greater pressure on Iran it will force Iran toward a position of greater weakness and that it will yield to the discussion in a more conciliatory mood and will be prepared to reassess its earlier positions.

According to this calculation, not only will Iran reduce its financial demands, but Iran's conciliatory position and its excessive softness will damage its revolutionary posture and reputation and will make it look defeated in this matter in the eyes of other world revolutionaries. In contrast, it will enable America to regain some of its honor.

The enemy imagines that by exerting greater pressure upon Iran it will be able to force Iran toward a more conciliatory position. This is why it has taken a number of steps in this regard so that it can, it imagines, frighten Iran and weaken its position. They constantly remind us that if the issue of the hostages is not solved during Carter's term, Iran will face greater difficulties during Reagan's term. Whether in their discussions or in their mass media, they have repeatedly emphasized the point that Reagan accepts the present discussions, but that Iran should not imagine that he will make greater concessions. Iran may also lose the present concessions by postponing the discussions.

Every day America makes a great show of its warships in the region and keeps increasing them. Also, they bring their Rapid Deployment Force to the attention of Iran in order to frighten Iran. There are also some rumors about a possible American attack against Iran's southern ports. It is being said that America plans to occupy Iran's three islands in the Persian Gulf.

These rumors are in keeping with the aggressive nature of imperialism. However, they cannot be unconnected to the issue of hostages. They intend to force Iran to soften its positions as the result of such threats and to reduce its conditions. The Western mass media and their radios which broadcast programs in Persian have all of a sudden started a great propaganda war against Iran. They call Iranians savages and they describe Iran's legitimate demands as a great ransom. Also, in his hard-hitting speech, which was meant as a warning to Iran, Reagan called Iranians uncivilized and barbarians. He said he is not prepared to pay a cent in ransom to the Iranians. They imagine that with this coordinated propaganda hue and cry they will be able to frighten Iran.

However, Iran's decisive and firm position has put to naught all their vain imaginings. The Iranian authorities have said they will never compromise over the said conditions which are the minimum rights of Iran.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran in his blunt talk called the Americans savages, and referred to their unique crimes and savagery in various countries of the world. Mr Hashemi said: Together with all the oppressed people of the world we shall continue our struggle against America and we shall show no conciliation in this regard. Also, in their multimillion-strong demonstrations the people asked for a deadline, so that if by that time America has not given a positive response to Iranian demands the spy hostages will be put on trial.

Therefore, once again the imperialist analysts have discovered that their analyses have been wrong. Not only did the people not pressure the central government to solve the issue in a conciliatory and speedy manner, they, on the contrary, decisively asked for the trial of the hostages. As for the Iranian leaders, not only have they not shown any softening of their positions; on the contrary they have decisively insisted on the implementation of their demands. Americans have discovered that the continuation of such an atmosphere might make the situation even worse than before and might lead to the definite trial of the hostages. The threat of military intervention was not only ineffective, but it even forced the Iranians to deal with the matter in a harsher [tondtar] and more severe manner and to plan, more seriously than before, to acquire weapons and war materiel, something which can potentially be dangerous for imperialism.

Once again, the imperialists have adopted a defensive position and have begun explaining their remarks by saying that this was not what we meant and so on. But, in any case, the enemy should know that it has no other option but to give a positive response to the Iranian demands and that procrastination may force Iran to adopt an uncompromising position and, consequently, the hostages might be tried.

It is natural that according to Islamic laws the trial of the hostages not only might lead to their execution, being guilty of spying; but, even more important, it will expose the unwarranted interference of imperialism in other countries. [Tabi'ist ke ke mohakemeye geroganha az nazar qavanin-e Eslami na tanha momken ast be 'edam-e anan be jorme jasusi biangamad balkeh az an mohemtar dekhalathaye naravaye amperialist ra dar digar keshvarha bar mala khahad sakht] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian rebroadcast this commentary at 2240 GMT on 1 January with the preceding sentence changed to read: "It is natural that the trial of the hostages will lay bare the unwarranted interference of imperialism in other countries."] This will face the American embassies abroad with great difficulties because all the people of the world will realize that these embassies are centers of conspiracies and spying and this will create many problems for the spies of the CIA and the Pentagon. Also, America's honor and reputation will be tarnished even more than before.

In brief, Iran is not ready for any softening of her position and will not deviate from its former positions. Procrastination and delay in the meeting of Iranian demands will certainly lead to the trying of the American spies. The American officials should clearly bear this matter in mind.

RELIGIOUS LEADER SEEKS IMMEDIATE HOSTAGE TRIAL

NC010748 Paris AFP in English 0746 GMT 1 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 1 Jan (AFP)--A leading ayatollah today urged Iran to stop bargaining with the United States over the 52 hostages and put them on trial as spies.

Ayatollah Allameh Yahya Nuri, considered one of the country's most respected religious figures, made the call in an interview with the English-language Tehran TIMES.

He complained that Iran's decision to set terms for the Americans' release was misguided, having been interpreted as a ransom demand although ransoms run counter to Islam.

The Americans were not hostages but spies, whose guilt had been established by documents found in the overrun U.S. Embassy, the ayatollah said.

He called for them to be put on trial without condition, according to Islamic law, and punished like Iranian criminals.

Ayatollah Nuri became widely known in Iran for his part in leading the "black Friday" anti-shah rally in Tehran on September 8, 1978, when troops clashed with demonstrators. Opposition groups put the death toll as high as 3,000.

In today's interview, he criticised Iranian officials for referring to the 52 Americans as "hostages", saying Iran was being mistaken by other countries for hostage takers.

The ayatollah also attacked parts of the four conditions set by Iran for the Americans' release. He said it was "comical" to ask the U.S. not to interfere in Iranian affairs--it was like asking a scorpion not to sting.

TEHRAN: U.S. CONTINUING TO PLOT AGAINST IRAN

JN010903 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0740 GMT 1 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Failure of the U.S. Plots Against the Islamic Republic"]

[Text] When the Muslim student followers of the imam's line became impatient with the provocative and aggressive acts carried out by the U.S. Embassy against the youthful Islamic revolution, those heroes finally [word indistinct] to control this den, in which the hostages were held.

This move, whose effects [word indistinct] to include some other world states, provided a lesson to the (?officials) in the White House in Washington.

When the United States saw that the Muslim Iranian people were prepared to defend their youthful republic against any move or aggression by the United States, it realized that it was impossible to launch a direct attack on Iran, since such an aggression might have negative consequences for the United States. The United States did not forget the (?lesson taught) by some peoples of the Islamic world through staging demonstrations, which proclaimed these peoples' indignation and complaints against the United States, and burning the U.S. embassies in Libya, Pakistan and other Islamic states, as we observed.

Thus the United States manipulated its fifth column agents and dispatched more fleets to the Sea of Oman, Arabian Peninsula and Persian Gulf in order to save its face in the world, particularly the Arab region.

Following the failure of the military campaign against the city of Tabas, the United States could do nothing, as the nation's leader and founder of the Islamic Republic has stated.

When the United States was certain that it could do nothing, it planned a military coup and then ordered its agents from the traitorous Ba'thists in Iraq to attack the territories of the Islamic Republic of Iran. These two schemes proved to be failures just like previous plots.

However, this does not mean that the United States will remove its hand from the Islamic Republic of Iran, since this republic's victory and stability conflict with the aggressive interests of the United States and its control over the region's peoples.

When the nation's imam and leader, Khomeyni, ordered that the Islamic Majlis be entrusted with solving the problem of the U.S. spies, the United States knew that this issue--solving this problem directly by the people and through the Islamic Majlis--would not be in its interest, since the Majlis would not yield to any kind of pressures. Thus, the United States resorted to deceit and sometimes evasion of truth, thus preventing the reaching of a suitable solution.

We witnessed this recently when the Islamic Majlis announced its conditions for the release of the detained U.S. hostages; the United States responded to these conditions in all coldness just as if the matter did not concern it and the 52 hostages were not Americans. The weak justifications it gave would differ. At one point it said that the issue is a legal one and the U.S. President has no right to violate laws and such other nonsense and responses that they knew were illogical.

We are also aware that such responses are made to deprive the Muslim Iranian people of their legitimate rights. In fact, they responded by ordering their agents inside to incite disturbances and spread chaos and rumors among the people so that they might, at least, undermine the health and comfort of the nation's leader, Imam Khomeyni.

However, these schemes were doomed to complete failure. The United States will not let this republic be. It ordered some of its helpmates who had been disowned by our Muslim people to circulate rumors and lies among the sons of the people to the effect that the government is weak and the U.S. hostages are not [words indistinct] the imperialist states, particularly the United States, (?namely) calling on the workers and students [words indistinct] U.S. imperialism to launch another aggression like the abortive attack on the city of (?Tabas) [words indistinct] against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

COMMENTARY: HOSTAGE ISSUE ALMOST CONCLUDED

LD011002 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0440 GMT 1 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary: "The Hostages and the U.S. Imperialists' New Policy"]

[Text] With the news concerning Washington's final reply at the conclusion of 3-day talks with the Algerian diplomats, intermediaries in the hostage issue, and with the change in the Western media's stand, it appears that the question of the Iranian nation's hostages is somehow nearing its end.

Last week, Iran presented the Algerian diplomats with its final reply. Later on both the prime minister and the minister of state in two separate press conferences replied to the baseless propaganda launched by the Western media accusing Iran of asking for ransom. These replies left no doubt about the Iranian people's demand, especially since the prime minister was addressing the entire Tehran diplomatic corps. In his assertions the prime minister once again stressed Iran's independence and lack of concern about the threatening policies exemplified by U.S. forces' movements, especially the naval fleet stationed in the Persian Gulf, and suspicious military maneuvers and mass diplomatic actions. He declared that Iran is determined on the implementation of the imam's proposed four demands, which have been approved by the Majlis.

In addition, the Majlis speaker replied in an interview to the threats and harsh remarks made by Reagan and his advisers and showed that the government and the Iranian Majlis, with the support of the valiant people of Iran, are determined to end imperialism's life in Iran and that such threats would not frighten them. Now, after 3 days of discussions, Washington too has presented its final reply to Iran. Warren Christopher, on behalf of the American officials (?stressed) two of Carter's conditions for the settlement of the hostages issue, conditions which are accepted by the Iranian Government.

In addition, the U.S. Government officials pointed out, the U.S. proposal submitted yesterday to the Algerian diplomats contains the Iranian Government's demands. Although the official U.S. reply has not yet been submitted to the Iranian officials, nevertheless diplomatic circles speak of discussions turning (?one-sided) and in case the Islamic Republic of Iran's righteous demands are not accepted by the United States, according to remarks made by the prime minister and the Majlis speaker, and in view of the fact that the U.S. diplomatic officials too have described the current reply as their "final proposal," there will be no option but to put the hostages on trial.

Meanwhile, the quick and suitable reaction of the Majlis speaker to Reagan's verbal attack, in which he described Reagan as an irresponsible person whose remarks were intended to prepare the ground before assuming power, took the world's political and media circles by surprise.

Now one ought to wait and see to what extent the U.S. proposal, which has been described by Washington's diplomatic officials, and especially by State Department Spokesman John Trattner, as the "final reply to a step toward solving the crisis," includes the Iranian people's legitimate demands reflected in the four-point terms.

But Western political observers and media are saying that the political climate is such that they have very great hopes in these proposals, and Iran too had previously announced that it had proposed its final conditions, conditions on which it would not go back even one step. What remains is an analysis of the U.S. political maneuver through which it tried to create the atmosphere in order to prepare a more suitable ground for its proposals, an atmosphere accompanied by the policy of intimidation, and in implementing this policy the United States counted on the fifth column which in the past too had been in the service of the counterrevolution and the U.S. elements. On the other hand, one should not consider the U.S. position as ending only through a settlement of the hostage issue. In the past too, in the case of previous American administrations, the mass media tried to create an appropriate atmosphere for the start of the activity of new U.S. cabinets. An atmosphere which would leave Western politicians' hands free to implement their designs no matter how harsh and impractical.

And one should consider [word indistinct] American mass media policy part of this design. In the past few days press conferences, especially that held by Reagan, indicating a tough line could be seen [word indistinct] in the imperialists' propaganda [word indistinct] a policy aiming to communicate to the other side that, contrary to Carter's unstable and vague foreign policy which had no political offensive in any corner of the world, Reagan is a superman who speaks from a position of strength and is determined with the use of force and through the impelementation of pugnacious policies to realize whatever he wishes. And if Carter entered the scene with a smile and under the cloak of human rights, Reagan will be entering the scene with guns ready to shoot and prepared for a massive offensive on a world scale. Such a view takes no account of the fact that it is world imperialism which is unstable, not Carter, and disregards the fact that Reagan's past political life shows that he is not only more unstable than Carter but his changing political stands are a proof of this claim. This character trait is so great that he switched to the extreme rightwing faction of the Republican Party from the Democratic Party of which he was a member for years. In the last 2 months alone and in the course of the election campaign, he showed several times how unstable he is concerning topics such as military issues or his stands regarding Taiwan and the People's Republic of China. On the other hand, they try to explain imperialism's defense policy as the outcome of a love of peace and regard for human rights, so that at any time that their excellencies America and Mr President decide, they could even embark upon open military intervention, disregarding the very fact that in the recent past and especially in the past 5 year imperialism's defense stand, especially America's not only did not reflect their love for human beings but was the direct result of the instability within imperialism and an outcome of the growing awareness of the masses and the liberation movements.

And as long as this level of awareness and efforts and struggle for freedom continues, imperialism, and above all America, has no option but to resort to defensive policies.

The valiant Iranian people's stand toward U.S. interferences and the crisis which is going to lead to the complete elimination of the world devourers at the international level is the outcome of this very thought and consideration. Our imam has been aware of this fact. Thus, when referring to the issue of the hostages and the seizure of the American den of espionage, he informs the masses that America is vulnerable and, as a result, imperialism is vulnerable; and his eminence considers this U.S. vulnerability to have resulted from the efforts of the Iranian people. It was the Iranians who made it clear how susceptible to damage America is; and they showed that America could be defeated by the forces of righteousness. And it has now become clear that no one in Iran or in the world is interested in the polical maneuvers and threats of U.S. imperialism, which are heard on alien radios, particularly Israeli radio and Cologne radio, trying to frighten the people of Iran and prepare the ground for the fifth column. And people of the world now believe in the destruction of universal imperialism, wheather this unjust system is headed by Carter or a Satan named Reagan, who has now set foot in the arena.

KHOMEYNI ADDRESSES GROUP ON VALUE OF UNITY

LD011504 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 81

[Speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni at 1 January meeting in Tehran with student teachers from Tabriz and members of the mobilization of the oppressed headquarters in Khorasan--recorded, duration 19 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. You, gentlemen have come a long way, from Tabriz and Khorasan, in this cold weather. You have troubled yourselves to undergo such a long journey to come here and (?listen) to me. I am grateful to you and beseech Almighty God to grant you and all the nation health.

My brothers: You know that today is a day when Iran is faced with difficulties, external and internal difficulties; and to solve these problems some time is required.

Today, thank God, all our nation is united except for a small group of corrupt people, who are followers of the superpowers and who regard this country as theirs alone, the government as theirs alone, all the armed forces as theirs alone and all those who are in charge of affairs as theirs alone. Therefore, they endure the pressures which are imposed on this country; we too must be patient and we should call on other people to be patient also. Patience is required in order to realize justice. If we want Islam, and if we wish to see the holy Koran implemented in this country and, God willing, in other countries, and if we wish to have an Islamic government, then all of us must recommend the path of righteousness. And all the members of the ocuntry, in (?corners), in the mobilization forces, in the courts, in the revolution guards corps, in the police force and the rest, must recommend the path of righteousness to each other. So that if, God forbid, deviation is observed or any deviate leftist or pseudo-leftist groups which are the servants of the West penetrate these organizations, they could be prevented from committing any wrongful actions.

When a country declares itself an Islamic Republic and intends to implement the Islamic republic's laws, then all the people of that country must recommend good deeds and prevent others from committing forbidden acts. All the organizations should be self-correcting. If some misdeed is committed by a committee, then the members of the committee themselves or the people should report the wrongdoing so that it can be corrected.

KHOMEYNI CALLS FOR COOPERATION AMONG ARMED FORCES

LD011102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 81

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahallati, the imam's deputy in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, met and conferred with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning. During this meeting he presented some reports to the imam of the nation about the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

According to a PARS report, at the end of this meeting Imam Khomeyni, issuing necessary guidance, called upon all the armed forces to cooperate with each other and emphasized that any action which might create tension must be seriously prevented.

KHAMENE'I DISCUSSES HOSTAGES, INTERNAL SEDITION

JN021124 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0851 GMT 2 Jan 81

[Friday sermon by Tehran Friday Imam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University mosque in Persian, with superimposed Arabic translation--live]

[Excerpts] Our people and nation should not be intimidated by the pressures that are being applied by world imperialism. We hear reports from the foreign mass media, which are often controlled by the Zionists, showing that our enemies are seeking to bring up the hostages issue in such a way as to frighten our people. We see some editorials in the United States and Europe and even in some mercenary papers in the Arab region indulging in the hope that the new U.S. president will attack Iran and will not be lenient. We sometimes see published interviews with elements from the superpowers, which say that a difficult decision has been made with regard to Iran and the Iranian people. Through these things they seek to intimidate and terrorize our people and to disseminate a sense of failure among the ranks. This is all in regard to external attempts.

As for the [word indistinct], there are superpowers (?agents), which [word indistinct] to make complaints against the revolution prevails in the society. We have often seen how the nation's imam, the [word indistinct] preachers and the loyal pens are always advising the people to be composed and to consider matters carefully.

There is no doubt that the revolution both creates and inherits some problems. However, the revolution's problems are associated with the change in the situation and the system. Some of these problems are associated with some agent elements, which are attempting to fragment the ranks from inside. You are all aware of how many projects for construction and for the accomplishment of radical changes in the recreational fields--projects seeking to create prosperity--have been impeded.

The enemy inside is seeking to spread complaints and to implant a sense of failure in you. He is also harping on demands, some of which are wrong and some right.

I feel it my duty to tell you all, brothers and sisters, that any move by anyone, under any slogan, will only cause the people to deviate from their right path. Indeed, such a move will only serve the agents and will be considered traitorous, whatever its origin. [applause]

Such traitorous moves sometimes are a result of flaws in a certain sector or a (?bold) class. Such flaws would be exploited by agents. I would like to announce to all of these revolutionary masses [words indistinct] all sectors that any strike or sitin, whatever its source or slogan, will be considered an act of treason against Muslims. [applause]

Faithful, loyal and revolutionary brothers everywhere--in factories and companies--you must be aware that having become desperate in all ways, the enemy is now clinging to the method of overexaggerating the demands and flaws that are sometimes found in some bodies and institutions, in an attempt to implant a sense of failure and to demoralize our people. However, our people have proceeded from the [word indistinct] of God's name and the blood of their martyrs, thus deriving determination and will.

The enemy is seeking to fabricate disputes and to make the people and government confront one another. Thus, I would like to tell those foreign politicians, internal agents and all of our enemies, who are pinning high hopes on such disputes and differences, that the people are united in one rank and form one steadfast fist that will destroy [word indistinct] the enemy. [applause]

Our people desire unity. It is the thing that our imam [words indistinct] every moment. It is that which our Koran and message [words indistinct] unity against the enemy and standing in one rank. Thus every individual must not hesitate to confront the enemy. [applause]

It is not only unity inside Iran of which we speak. We believe in all of the struggling progressive elements in the Islamic world. I hereby say, Oh Muslim brothers and sisters, that the unity alleged by the agent kings and leaders is not the kind that is desired or accepted by Islam and Koran. The mass media in some Arab states have talked about Arab unity, but such unity is for the purpose of striking at the Islamic revolution and weakening the state of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We thus declare that a unity that is not reflected among the ranks of the Arab people, a unity whose supporters are the likes of As-Sadat--Kissinger's friend--Shah Husayn and the (?father of ignorance) in Iraq is merely a cover for the motives of the superpowers and agent kings and leaders in this region. Such unity is not an Islamic Arab unity. [applause]

Some of you have gone to the extreme right while others have gone to the extreme left. (?I can) say that some of you in the center are unstable and are not standing firmly on your feet. The people will not accept your allegations that you are defending their interests, while at the same time you disobey and rebel against the ruling institution in the country. [applause] Our people reject this from you. Either you do not profess to love this state or, if you really are attached and dedicated to serving this country, you must obey the institution that is administering it, since no institution can achieve success in its work if the people do not rally around it. You must rally around those who are in command. Rally around our people's ranks and seek to stand in one line behind Ruhollah, in whom all Islamic values are manifested.

AYATOLLAH BEHESHTI SPEAKS TO PRESS, MEDIA

Press Conference

JN311835 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1740 GMT 31 Dec 80

[Text] In reply to a question about buying arms from the Soviet Union or any other state provided that the receipts of arms does not harm our independence, Ayatollah Dr Seyyed Mohammad Beheshti, president of the supreme judiciary body, said: Our foreign economic policy is clear and frank owing to the fact that our foreign policy adheres to the general position of neither the East nor the West, in addition to our adherence to the requirements of safeguarding the rights of the oppressed in the world. It is in the light of these two criteria that we formulate our foreign policy.

At a press conference attended by local and foreign press correspondents, Dr Beheshti replied to a question on his opinion of Kissinger's tour of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf as a sign of new plots against the Iranian Islamic revolution by saying: It is natural that the brokers of oppression carry out only wicked attempts. It is very clear that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is observing these wicked attempts within its capabilities.

On the occasion of the new year and the Christian world's celebration of it, Ayatollah Dr Beheshti expressed hope that strife and wars will come to an end everywhere so that people can live in an atmosphere of peace and stability. This is what we wish particularly for the Asian-African and Latin american peoples as well as for the peoples of Europe and North America. Dr Beheshti added: The world peoples can live a better life in the absence of the imposed regimes, which are unfortunately many. Such regimes, he said, do not satisfy their peoples' needs, but work in the interest of particular factions. Therefore, peoples must work and struggle to achieve their aspirations. Moreover, the Iranian people have devoted all their potentials to building [words indistinct].

Referring to the occupation of the Soviet Embassy in Tehran on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Dr Beheshti said: The world has condemned the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Media Interview

LD311836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1654 GMT 31 Dec 80

[Interview with Ayatollah Beheshti, president of Iran's Supreme Court, by unnamed Voice and Vision correspondent, time and place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dr Beheshti, about the reasons behind the resignation of the minister of justice and its acceptance, what are your views on this issue?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Unfortunately, his excellency did not discuss his resignation with the Supreme Judicial Council, and since this council is usually the proposer it is necessary that this council be informed of the reasons. His excellency has not contacted the Supreme Judicial Council since Monday and this morning it was necessary to contact him regarding a certain matter but he was not in his office and could not be contacted anywhere else. Therefore, my answer to your question is only that I do not know. We hope to be able, God willing, to contact his excellency today or tomorrow and find out why he has resigned.

[Question] We had an interview with his excellency and he said that the Guardian Council's interpretation of the minister of justice's authority is very limited and I think this might be the reason for his resignation which he himself mentioned in an interview with the television. [as heard]

[Answer] You know that we prefer to wait and hear the reason from his own mouth rather than hazard a guess.

[Question] This issue of limitations on the authorities vested with the minister of justice, could you please elaborate on it?

[Answer] This is very simple. If the Judicial Branch is to be an independent branch, naturally, the role played by the minister of justice, who is a member of the cabinet, would be merely in connection with issues between the Judicial Branch and the Executive Branch, and the Judicial Branch and the Legislative Branch. Naturally it cannot exceed this otherwise it would contradict the independence of the Judicial Branch. The fact that I have certain responsibilities and am a member of the Supreme Defense Council has no bearing on my interpretation of this issue. No, this question was discussed in detail at joint sessions of commissions while the constitution was being formulated. I think tapes of these discussions are available. One of the members of the council of experts emphasized that the independence of the Judicial Branch should be even greater. For example, he said that the budget allocated for the Judicial Branch should be approved in one lump on the proposal put forward by the branch itself.

Suggestions like this were measures to assure the independence of the Judicial Branch despite its economic and financial restrictions. I do not think that this is a complicated issue, it is very simple. Now, it is not clear to me whether his excellency has resigned for this reason. I prefer to wait and ask him myself.

[Question] Considering the fact that recently, and in the past, the student followers of the imam's policy exposed some of the well known personalities, why does the Judicial Branch not make a decision on these expositions and, if these allegations are true, why are these personalities not charged according to the law?

[Answer] As you know, charging persons according to the law has to go through approved channels. First a complaint should be filed, then the case taken up by the public prosecutor's office. The complaint should be accompanied by necessary evidence and then this should be handed to the prosecutor's office. As we have repeatedly said, the new judicial system has so many different problems to deal with at present that it is in no way able to cope with all of them. I hope that suitable laws are compiled for these cases and judges and officials are appointed to deal with them in order to handle all these allegations, accusations and complaints in the manner expected from the Judicial Branch. I think that any allegation in connection with the documents discovered in the den of espionage should be investigated by the judicial authorities. I hope that we are able to study these documents quickly through our courts and make the necessary decisions.

[Question] The issue of the bill for the formation of the court of justice and the national inspectorate of the country--what decisions have been made in the Supreme Judicial Council?

[Answer] The bill for the formation of the national inspectorate of the country was ratified by the Supreme Judicial Council in its final form and was sent to the Majlis for final ratification. Of course it will be sent to the Council of Ministers and then to the Majlis. The bill for the formation of the administrative court of justice, which has been studied for several months, has been handed to the Supreme Judicial Council in its final form and copies of it have been made for the members of the council. It might be discussed in tomorrow's session or at the next session and then it will be sent to the Majlis for ratification.

MAJLIS DEPUTIES DISCUSS CURRENT DOMESTIC ISSUES

Undelivered Warships

LD311308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Dec 80

[Excerpts] The Islamic Consultative Assembly held a public session today.

According to a report by a Central News Bureau correspondent, during the open session of the Majlis today a representative of the Defense Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran answered a question raised by 'Ali Golzadeh-faturi, a deputy from Tehran, regarding the purchase of two naval vessels from Britain. In his answer he said that under the satanical regime two agreements for the purchase of naval craft from Britain had been concluded. One of them concerned a support craft equipped with defensive arms. The agreement for this was concluded in 1977. Altogether, Britain has received 39.1 million pounds, and this naval craft was ready to be delivered some 9 months ago. However, during its test period, when the hostage issue and the issue of economic sanctions were raised, they started to drag their feet. Eventually they openly said they would not deliver the craft until the hostage issue is resolved. Despite the fact that the craft is needed very much, they impudently refuse to deliver it.

In addition, another agreement was also concluded in 1977 for the purchase of four troop-carrying warships at a total cost of 82 million pounds. However, towards the end of the previous regime, the company involved was asked to cancel the agreement. After the revolution, however, we looked into the matter and reached the conclusion that two of the four naval craft would be needed by our navy. We have paid a total of 15 million pounds in installments for the two naval craft, and these two craft have been launched. But because of the economic sanctions, they say they cannot deliver them to us. We should do something to take delivery of these three naval craft, which have been paid for in full, for they are greatly needed by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

After the explanation provided by the Defense Ministry representative the issue was referred to the [Majlis] Committee for Questions, at the request of the Tehran deputy.

Deputies on Internal Enemies

LD311336 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Dec 80

[Text] The first pre-agenda speaker at today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly was Mr Mohammad Siyavash, the deputy from Ahvaz, who, in a speech referring to the savage crimes of the mercenaries of Saddam at-Tikriti yesterday which led to the martyrdom and wounding of scores of heroic and committed people of Ahvaz, on behalf of his constituents asked: Who is responsible for these deaths? He said: Although so far many times the officials have promised to inflict a deadly blow upon the aggressive forces of Saddam, nevertheless, nothing has taken place. He asked the commander in chief of the armed forces to explain to the people the reason for the lack of effective action in the face of the Iraqi infidels.

Then Abdol-Majid Diyalameh, the deputy from Mashhad, gave a speech and, referring to the creation of a deviationist policy alongside that of the imam which regards the occupation of the den of espionage as a weak point, the person who does not regard the government capable of dealing with the current affairs, the person who in cooperation with all the counterrevolutionary forces is trying to weaken the government and the revolutionary organizations. [sentence as heard] He then referred to the role of the committed and combative clergy and said: This deviationist policy, through a planned program, is trying, in order to distract the attention of people from American imperialism to make it appear that the anti-imperialist struggles of our people have been planned by the Tudeh Party.

The next speaker was Shamsoddin Hoseyni, the deputy from Na'in, who, while mentioning the assistance rendered by the deputy of his constituency to the war regions, thanked them for their efforts. Then he asked the president to deliver a mighty blow to the mouths of the enemies and the rumormongers through a revolutionary action and to bring happiness to the friends of the revolution. Then he warned America that if it carries out an operation in Iran the entire Islamic world will rise up in an uproar and positions will be taken against it throughout the world.

The last speaker at the open session of the Majlis was Mohammad Javad Hajjati Kermani, the deputy from Tehran, who in a speech asked [government] officials to expel the unclean elements which are among them. He said: The Majlis should be united and should avoid schisms because the enemy, which has lost hope of crushing us from the outside is trying to crush us from the inside through conspiracies. He asked the speaker of the Majlis to invite [government] officials to take part in a radio and television debate and to solve their problems in peace. He also asked of the newspapers that so long as this debate has not taken place to refrain from spreading poison and creating divisions.

Today's open session ended at 1200. The next open session will be at 0800 on Sunday, 11 January 1981.

Shelling of Ahvaz

GF311926 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Dec 80

[Text] The Majlis held its open session this morning under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasehmi Rafsanjani.

The Ahvaz Majlis deputy delivered a short speech regarding the artillery shelling of Ahvaz yesterday by the treacherous Iraqi regime's mercenaries. He said: The U.S. petty hand has caused, through the agent Saddam, another calamity in the heroic city of Ahvaz, where 16 of its areas where brought under the fire of the long-range artillery of the treacherous Iraqi regime's mercenaries yesterday afternoon. Heavy damages were inflicted in eight of these areas and very heavy damages were inflicted in three other areas. This criminal act has resulted in the martyrdom of 52 people and the injury of 111 others.

The Ahvaz Majlis deputy said, in extending his condolences to the imam of the nation and the martyrs' families, that sacrificing these flowers is not a great thing for the sake of Islam's progress. We are ready to offer more sacrifices. All martyrs are ready to come back to life hundreds of times in order to be martyred again.

The Ma'in Majlis deputy addressed the United States saying: The United States must understand our logic since it is a superpower claiming to protect the interests of the other superpowers. He added: Our movement is not military, political or economical, but it is a movement nurtured by the essence of the people's thought for the past 14 centuries. The United States must know that any crime it commits will raise the anger of the world, which will rise against it.

Mobilization, Guards Merger

LD011120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 81

[Excerpt] According to the Central News Bureau, during yesterday's joint session of the Defense and Internal Affairs Commissions of the Islmic Consultative Assembly, proposals put to the Majlis about the amalgamation of the mobilization of the oppressed and the guards corps were reviewed and the plan was approved by the joint commission and was submitted to the Majlis for a second reading.

RAJA'I NOT IN RECEIPT OF MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

LD312044 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Dec 80

[Excerpts] According to PARS, Prime Minister Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i this evening took part in the session of the supreme council of the cultural revolution. At this session, at which the minister of education, Dr Mohammad Javad Bahonar; Hojjat ol-Eslam Rabbani Amlashi; Jalaleddin Farsi; the minister of science and higher education, Dr 'Arefi' and Dr Shari'at Madari were present, a report on the last month's work of the headquarters of the cultural revolution was reviewed. At the end of this session, the prime minister, in an interview with a PARS correspondent, said: One month ago, when I took part in a session of this headquarters, it was agreed to prepare the plan for the start of the work of medical colleges.

Finally, Mr Raja'i was questioned about the resignation of the minister of justice. He said in reply: I have not yet received the resignation of the justice minister, but I have received a letter from him which must be brought up at the Council of Ministers [shora-ye vaziran] and the outcome will be announced soon.

RAJA'I IN BUSHEHR TO REVIEW PROVINCE'S PROBLEMS

LD011918 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jan 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau dispatch from Shiraz, Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister, together with the Bushehr citizen's representative to the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the deputy head of Iran's atomic energy organization, arrived in Bushehr this afternoon and was welcomed by Bushehr's Friday imam, the governor general, commanding officers of naval and air bases in Bushehr and heads of police and gendarmerie in that province.

On his arrival in Bushehr Mr Raja'i visited the city's mobilization headquarters for the oppressed and, addressing a meeting of brother members of the mobilization headquarters, said: Mobilization constitutes one of the cornerstones of independence and we feel that independence should exist in men and this is a characteristic which calls for mobilization. [as heard] The prime condition for revolution is constructing manpower for revolution from the heart of which you have risen. The prime minister added: Mobilization is a popular force which has come about from the heart of the revolution and if we were to say that the revolution leans on mobilization we would not be exaggerating.

As to self-sufficiency Mr Raja'i said: Before the revolution foreigners used to disseminate propaganda to the effect that Iranians lacked manpower and could not administer their country. In the field of oil we have acted in a manner that surprises foreigners who wonder how our refineries are working below par while our aircraft have sufficient aviation fuel and their necessary spare parts are being manufactured in the country.

In another part of his speech the prime minister said: Mobilization should look upon work as an incumbent canonical duty. There are a great many shortcomings in Bushehr Province and whatever you do in this regard this would be a matter of principle and thereby after the passage of several years from our revolution the city of Bushehr and the entire province would look quite different. [sentence as heard]

At the conclusion of his visit Mr Raja'i replied to various questions put to him by the members of the mobilization headquarters on various issues. Our country's prime minister then visited the city of Bani in Bushehr Province and studied the problems and difficulties of the personnel in the city of Sani'.

On the basis of the same report, this afternoon Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister, at a meeting with Bushehr's Friday imam, the citizen's representative at the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the governor general, the governors, district officers, directors general and representatives of the Islamic revolution organizations in Bushehr discussed and studied the problems of the province. During this meeting with prime minister called on those who were present the problems as they are, without glossing over them. He said: This is because we are the servants of the people and should there be any problems, these problems should be discussed so that we can all do our utmost to solve these problems.

The managing director of the province's health department, referring to health problems from the standpoint of the shortage of doctors and staff to look after geriatrics said: Despite all this we have succeeded in increasing the number of hospital beds in Bushehr from 120 to 300 and also we have improved other capabilities needed. However, by working harder we will strive to overcome more and more of the problems. During the meeting all the shortcomings and progress made since the revolution were discussed and in every case the prime minister issued guidelines and in a great many cases he pointed to ways of solving the problems.

Address to Naval Personnel

LD021222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jan 81

[Text] According to a report from our correspondent, Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister, on the second day of his visit to Bandar-e Bushehr today addressed a meeting of naval personnel in Bushehr extolling the self-sacrifice and selfless work of the combat personnel of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and said: I thank God that the unanimous opinion of military and civilian responsible officials about our naval cadres is one of self-sacrifice and all commend this service for overthrowing a Satan who was the agent of U.S. and Soviet world imperialism and for reflecting your extensive efforts toward expelling the Iraqi infidel mercenaries from the soil of dear Iran.

In another part of his speech the prime minister said: We are now an independent country and no one entertains or can entertain any doubts as to this fact since already both the Russians and Americans are at war against us. Mr Raja'i emphasized: We have achieved this independence thanks to the blood of our dearest children; and this independence is not merely one of territorial integrity as we have not only made the soil of our country independent, we have also given independence to our thoughts and we should also preserve the independence achieved from the geographical viewpoint, too, and extend it from the cultural standpoint.

REPORTAGE ON BANI-SADR MEETINGS WITH MILITARY

Susangerd Front

LD311728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 31 Dec 80

[Text] According to a PARS dispatch, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief of the armed forces, visited one of the battlefronts in the Susangerd region this morning. According to the PARS correspondent's dispatch, the president, accompanied by the acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the minister of defense and commander of the air force, inspected the positions and trenches of the servicemen of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and chatted with the soldiers, officers and NCO's.

The PARS correspondent's dispatch also reports that this afternoon, during a meeting attended by the president and commander in chief of the armed forces; Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council; the acting chief of the Joint Staff; the commander of the air force; and a number of other military commanders, and held at the command headquarters of one of the fronts, the overall situation on the war fronts and the type of operations carried out and the steps taken by the brave Iranian combatants in confronting the mercenaries of the Iraqi mercenary army were discussed.

Khuzestan Province

LD012054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 1 Jan 81

[Text] Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief, tonight, at a session in which the chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the minister of defense and the commander of the air force and other commanders of the forces stationed in Khuzestan Province were present, reviewed and discussed the situation at the war fronts.

According to the PARS correspondent's dispatch, at this session which was held as part of the president's trip to Khuzestan Province, reports on the operations and activities of different units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were discussed by their commanders and after discussing the overall situation at the war fronts, the morale of the personnel of the army and other forces in the war against the forces of infidelity and confrontation and the weakening forces of the Iraqi mercenary army the necessary decisions were made.

'Military Base'

LD021136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jan 81

[Text] Dr Seyyed Abolhssan Bani-Sadr, the president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, visited a military base this morning. According to a PARS dispatch, during this visit the president, talking with the personnel of that base, called on them to multiply their efforts to secure the expulsion of the weakening Iraqi infidel army from our homeland's soil.

MONTAZERI WARNS AGAINST DELAYING OFFENSIVE

LD311950 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Dec 80

[Text] According to PARS, His Great Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri, the exulted jurisconsult, today sent a cable to the hojaj-e Eslam [plural for hojjat ol-Eslam] and ulema of Ahvaz, through the Friday imam of the city. The text of the telegram is as follows:

In His Exalted name. Care of His Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam Mr Taheri, the friday imam; Your Excellencies hojaj-e Eslam and the learned ulema of Khuzestan, may God Almighty assist you. The killing of defenseless people of Ahvaz by the armed forces of the blasphemous Saddam's regime, has once again caused deep sorrow. Of course, the self-sacrifice of the nation, armed forces and the corps of Islam is unprecedented through history. But at the same time as our zealous armed forces and the dear corps are enjoying such power and morale, our nation is wondering why they desist from an offensive against the treacherous enemy which has occupied our country. I am not aware whether the Supreme Defense Council has clearly informed the leader of the revolution of the current situation at the battlefronts, which as a whole could be overlooked easily, or not.

The Supreme Defense Council is aware of the fact that the policy of marking time and giving a reprieve to the tyrannic regime of Iraq to reinforce its units, will cost us the shedding of blood of hundreds of Muslim youth and will give hope to the United States to continue its satanic conspiracies.

While offering my condolences to the bereaved and martyr-rearing families of Khuzestan, I call upon the learned ulema to bring the issue clearly to the attention of the leader of the revolution, His Great Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his lofty shadow increase, and present it to the Islamic Consultative Assembly; and think of something concrete to bury the forces of blasphemy and the Ba'thist aggressors of Iraq before it is too late.

In the hope of victory of the forces of Islam against blasphemy. May God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, 31 December 1980

INTERIOR MINISTER'S REMARKS ON KHUZESTAN REFUGEES

LD311255 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Dec 80

[Text] Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani, minister of interior, who has gone to Khuzestan, in an interview in Ahvaz with a PARS correspondent, stated: On this trip in one of the cities of Khuzestan I had a discussion with the president concerning national issues. Regarding the topics discussed with the president he said: In this meeting we discussed the situation of the war refugees, the formation of the Cabinet and issues which, at times, in newspapers and interviews become sources of disunity and clashes. We should hope that the results of these discussions will be revealed later.

In another part of his interview the minister of interior said: Concerning the war, the president said that the situation is good and is getting better day by day. We hope the issue of the refugees will be solved to some extent in the near future. He stated that, of course, it should be borne in mind that even after the war the issue of the refugees will not be solved immediately. The reconstruction of places will require time, and the government has prepared itself for this task.

The minister of interior added: In Khuzestan certain headquarters responsible for short and long-term policies have been set up in order to oversee the conditions of the war refugees. According to the explanations which were provided by the governor general, the steps which have been taken by officials and revolutionary organizations are hopeful. We hope through unity among all the forces, the armed forces, the guards brothers, the mobilization headquarters and Khuzestan committees--which, unfortunately, are not mentioned [by the newspapers and people]--Iran will achieve victory.

Referring to the issue that there are more war refugees in Khuzestan Province than in other places, the minister of interior said: We have issued an order that, bearing in mind limitations, greater facilities should be placed at the disposal of this province.

In the interview Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani urged the brothers and sisters who have been harmed by the war to maintain their calm so that, through steadfastness, we can defeat the enemy. He also asked the people to cooperate with the government and government officials in solving problems and also not to listen to the propaganda of the fifth column because they do not desire the well-being of this nation. Those who spread these rumors are foreign agents who want to create disunity and prevent the government from carrying out its responsibilities.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 354, 355

354: 30-31 Dec Battles

LD311836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1636 GMT 31 Dec 80

[Communique 354 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The self-sacrificing, pious combatants of Islam, consisting of the fighting personnel of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, gendarmerie, police, guards corps, warlike tribes, members of the mobilization crusade, Imam Khomeyni's devotees, volunteer and popular forces and all those whose hearts beat for Islam and Iran, are dealing every moment with their heroic deeds crushing and mortal blows at the shaky body of the Iraqi mercenaries as a whole. The whole world can now see as regards the cowardly offensive launched and imposed on Iran by the United States and its descreditable and involuntary pawn, Saddam, how a nation has been mobilized and armed and how in the end the masses' steadfastness and independence spell the death and decline of the superpowers.

For the benefit of Iran's self-sacrificing nation here is a report on the situation on the battlefronts involving the powerful troops of Islam and Saddam's hangmen 30-31 December 1980:

1. Along the Mahshahr-Abadan axis some of the enemy's armored forces were destroyed as a result of fire from the fighter aircraft of the air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and in the same region as a result of heavy fire from the heroes of Islam 20 Iraqi aggressors were killed. On this front 1 of our combatant heroes was martyred and 14 were wounded.

2. Clashes continued for several hours between our forces and those of the aggressor using heavy artillery on the banks of the Karun River and in the vicinity of Khuninshahr; and 1 enemy antiaircraft gun, 3 tank emplacements, 4 squad trenches and 1 tank were destroyed and 10 enemy servicemen were killed and some 30 were wounded. Also the city of Dezful came under artillery fire from the mercenaries, and as a result one empty house was hit and destroyed. As for the Karkhehkur and Shush fronts, these were quieter and the exchange of fire was sporadic.

3. On the Darkhovin-Mared Highway 4 enemy foxholes, 4 squad trenches, 1 antiaircraft gun and 1 tank were destroyed and 37 mercenary aggressors were either killed or wounded.

4. Yesterday the cowardly enemy once again revealed his criminal nature and using long-range mortar-launching artillery opened fire on Ahvaz's residential areas, as a result of which a large number of our defenseless compatriots in this city were martyred or wounded. Moreover, 17 residential houses, 5 vehicles, 1 lamp post and 1 tank were destroyed during this attack.

5. In the western region the fighting units deployed in Kan-e Sakht, opened fire on the Iraqi (Zaluab) border post and the trenches surrounding it, destroyed one enemy military vehicle and killed five mercenaries.

6. Also today as a result of artillery and mortar-launching fire by the ground forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran enemy ammunition and fuel depots east of As-Sulaymaniyah were set ablze and for hours afterwards the flames and explosions could be both seen and heard. According to reports which have recently reached us, the Iraqi Government recently declared to all its military personnel that any military man seeking asylum in Iran would be sentenced to death, and should he desert the front he would be condemned to 15 years imprisonment; for this reason a number of families whose sons either deserted the fronts, or sought asylum with the army of Islam have hidden in far-flung areas in order to escape the wrath of Saddam's officials.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

355: Enemy Losses

LD011742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1639 GMT 1 Jan 81

[Communique 355 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Muslim struggling compatriots of Iran: The combative and selfless forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran dealt effective blows on the mercenary forces of the Iraqi army and inflicted the following losses and damage on the enemy yesterday, 31 December 1980:

Ahvaz fronts: Yesterday, as a result of intense artillery, mortar and other heavy weapons fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, three tanks, three cannon, one personnel carrier, three vehicles, three loaders and two trucks carrying ammunition belonging to the Iraqi Army were destroyed, five of Saddam's mercenaries were killed and seven injured.

2. Dezful fronts: Yesterday, 31 December, positions of the Iraqi Army on Dezful fronts came under fire by the artillery forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army and, as a result, considerable damage was inflicted on the enemy. Several enemy positions were destroyed and a quantity of their supply and communications equipment was set on fire. In this operation two of the enemy's special force personnel were injured. Also, on one of Dezful's fronts, as a result of artillery fire and the activities of patrol groups from the combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, one of enemy's ammunition dumps was destroyed, five Iraqi mercenaries were killed and a large number were injured.

3. Yesterday, the long range artillery of the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran shelled enemy positions in Al-Faw port and the port's military and oil installations. The shelling continued until 1230 yesterday. As a result of this shelling, enemy oil installations in Al-Faw and their positions suffered considerable damage and one armored personnel carrier belonging to the enemy was destroyed. There is no exact information available as to the losses in life suffered by the enemy.

4. Due to the artillery fire of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic and an attack launched by the Airborne Division's fighters, one armored personnel carrier and one enemy tank was destroyed on the Huninshahr front, one of Saddam's mercenaries was killed and four injured. Also, fire on the enemy positions on the Khuninshahr-Ahvaz killed or injured about 11 Iraqi mercenaries.

5. Yesterday, 31 December, enemy positions in the Shaykh Badal region came under artillery and heavy weapons fire by our forces. As a result three enemy tanks were destroyed and a large number of Saddam's mercenaries were killed. In these operations one of our four tanks was damaged. Also, since yesterday morning, enemy positions in [name indistinct], Umm Qasr and (Qaseliyeh) came under heavy fire from the long range artillery of the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran which resulted in considerable losses and damages suffered by the enemy.

6. Yesterday, 31 December, Susangerd, Shush and (Jesr-e Naderi) came under the fire of the long range artillery and heavy mortars belonging to the enemy and the combatants of Islam returned their fire. Two of the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were injured.

7. Yesterday, as a result of artillery and heavy weapons fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran over 80 of the mercenaries of the Iraqi Army were either killed or injured on the Darkhovin-Mared road. In these operations, the damage inflicted on the enemy forces was: six tanks, four vehicles, six trenches, one heavy mortar and one command base of the Iraqi army destroyed.

8. Abadan front: Yesterday, two of our forces' soldiers were martyred.

(Signed) The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GUARDS CORPS STATEMENT ON 29 DEC OPERATIONS

LD301858 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Dec 80

[Text] The central staff command of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps reports that the situation with regard to the corps' operations on the war fronts is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The sites of battles between right and wrong are witnessing epics being created by our dear ones every day, who with the utmost self-sacrifice are defending the Islamic revolution and the young sapling known as the Islamic Republic of Iran. The brothers from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps hereby report to our vigilant and martyr-nurturing Islamic nation on their operations yesterday:

1. Ahvaz: On 29 December 1980 the self-sacrificing brothers of the guards corps, with the cooperation of their brothers from the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran deployed in Farsiat, subjected for a whole hour the positions of the aggressive enemy to intense artillery fire and inflicted the following losses on Saddam's infidels: the destruction of nine tanks and their crew, three personnel carriers, one 75-mm heavy machinegun and five squad trenches with their personnel. At dusk the same day our corps brothers, during a bold night attack, completely destroyed two enemy positions. During these operations Saddam's mercenaries suffered over 100 deaths or injuries. Fortunately, during these operations our corps brothers did not suffer any casualties. In the meantime, other corps brothers deployed in the Farsiat region discovered and completely defused a minefield consisting of 150 antitank and 36 antipersonnel mines west of the Karkhehkur River.

2. Susangerd: On 29 December our brothers from Susangerd's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, during a series of operations codenamed "Arba'in Operations, "succeeded in destroying one tank and one BMP personnel carrier with their crew and in killing dozens of Iraqi infidels.

3. Darkhovin: On 29 December a mortar-launching unit of the guards corps in Darkhovin region destroyed one enemy tank and killed several enemy mercenaries.

[Signed] The public relations office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [name of signatory as heard]

TEHRAN REPORTS BATTLE SITUATION ON WESTERN FRONTS

LD311224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Dec 80

[Text] PARS reports from Kermanshah that last night and yesterday battle continued with exchange of artillery, heavy weapons and mortar fire between combatants defending the Islamic revolution and the forces of blasphemy on the country's western fronts.

According to reports received by 2200 yesterday from the Sumar, Zeleh Zard, Gilan-e Gharb, Zahab and Qasr-e Shirin fronts, Islam's warriors on these fronts forcefully pounded enemy trenches and positions. On the Sumar front Islam's combatants succeeded in killing and injuring a number of enemy personnel in artillery fire. In similar operations on the Zahab front one truck carrying enemy personnel was destroyed and casualties were inflicted on the personnel. Enemy forces have also been driven back from several heights on the same front.

According to the report, the Iraqi mercenary forces, who have lost their ability to confront Islam's combatants, have once again directed their artillery fire on residential areas. In the Gilan-e Gharb sector enemy shells caused the martyrdom of one person and the wounding of several civilians. Another report from the Sumar front says that one enemy personnel carrier was destroyed by Islam's combatants, with one Iraqi killed and several injured. In face-to-face combat operations in Gilan-e Gharb one member of the forces of blasphemy was killed and several were injured, and the rest fled. On the Zahab front, the combatants of Islam directed their mortar fire on the village of Anushirvan which was housing a concentration of enemy troops and inflicted considerable casualties on the Iraqi forces. As a result of these operations a large number of people misled by Saddam were killed and injured. For some time Iraqi ambulances were carrying bodies away from battle scenes.

FIGHTING, CASUALTIES ON AHVAZ FRONT REPORTED

LD311138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1045 GMT 31 Dec 80

[Text] PARS reports from Ahvaz that Saddam's mercenary executioners, continuing their acts of aggression against the rights of the militant and heroic Iranian nation, yesterday afternoon created a new horrendous tragedy by opening fire on the defenseless citizens of Ahvaz.

This crime by the infidel Saddamites, which left in its wake nearly 40 people martyred and scores injured, once again exposed the ugly and inhumane nature of the Iraqi criminal regime.

According to the report, in order to mark this occasion, Hojjat ol-Eslam Taheri, the Ahvaz Friday imam, has declared today a day of public mourning. In addition the Islamic Council and the association of Ahvaz bazaar merchants have issued a statement expressing their congratulations and condolences to the families of the martyrs. They also have declared today a day of public mourning in response to the Ahvaz Friday imam, have closed the bazaar and taken part in the funeral ceremony for the martyrs.

A PARS report from Abadan also reports that at about 1900 yesterday two Iraqi MiG's violated Abadan's airspace, but that the antiaircraft defense of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran forced them to flee. The report says that sporadic exchanges of fire between the combatants of Islam and the Iraqi mercenaries continued until nightfall yesterday on the Abadan fronts. Last night the Iraqi mercenaries sporadically shelled residential areas in Abadan with their long-range guns.

Further Report

LD311752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1643 GMT 31 Dec 80

[Text] According to PARS an informed official in the office of the governor general of Khuzestan announced: Yesterday our self-sacrificing brother guards, during a series of guerrilla operations on the Ahvaz front, succeeded in destroying (?nine) enemy tanks, three ammunition-carrying vehicles and one 75-calibre machinegun. Also on the same day, the self-sacrificing corps discovered an enemy minefield and defused all the mines.

On the basis of the same report, on the Ahvaz front, positions of the Iraqi mercenaries were pounded by the artillery fire of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The enemy artillery also returned fire. The number of martyrs, during yesterday's enemy attack on residential districts of Ahvaz, amounted to 44, while 95 were wounded. No information is at hand, as yet, about number of casualties and damages inflicted on the Iraqi mercenaries on the Ahvaz front yesterday.

An informed official in the Dezful Governorate, in a contact with PARS, announced today, the same as in previous days, the residential districts of Dezful came under the artillery fire of the deceived enemy forces and some of the residential houses were damaged. During these attacks (?a number of) people were wounded.

ISLAMIC COURT IN AHVAZ ISSUES COMMUNIQUE

GF010515 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 31 Dec 80

["Text" of Communique issued by Public Relations Department of Ahvaz Islamic Court--date not given]

[Text] In the name of the God, the merciful, the compassionate. Once again the criminal hand of the bloodthirsty United States has come out of the sleeve of fascist Saddam, the fraud of the time and savage of the 20th century, and dragged in dust and blood a lot of oppressed and defenseless citizens of this territory of means of superpower arms. We, the employees of the Islamic Revolution Court and prosecutor's office in Ahvaz, while condemning this dastardly attack, sympathize with Ahvaz martyrs' families in their sorrow. May God Almighty grant them everlasting patience in their great sorrow. We hope the truth will be forthcoming and the shameful actions of Saddam and his followers will be tried in Islamic courts of the people of Iraq under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni.

NVOI BLAMES CIA FOR ATTACK ON SOVIET EMBASSY

TA311522 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 30 Dec 80

[Unattributed commentary: "The Aim of the Counterrevolution Is to Isolate the Islamic Republic"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The true national and revolutionary forces are expressing indignation and disgust toward the conspiratorial and adventurous act of a group of counterrevolutionary elements who operate in the name of the Hezbollahi. As we are aware, on Saturday, certain groups of these elements attacked the embassy of the USSR Government in Tehran with sticks, clubs and knives, this piratic act which took place according to a CIA plan and which was led by the counterrevolution and the liberal-bourgeois wing is only one aspect of the U.S. plot against Iran.

We recall the remarks by Brzezinski, who said: "The termination of diplomatic support of Khomeyni's Islamic Republic, particularly by the Soviet Union, will definitely result in the weakening of the foreign policy positions of the Khomeyni regime." When we compare these remarks with the act that took place on Saturday, we clearly perceive that the counterrevolution, the liberal-bourgeois wing and the extreme leftists and rightists and their American overlords have a conspiratorial and hostile plan, the aim of which is to separate revolutionary Iran from its friends and natural allies, to isolate the Iranian revolution and to weaken and overthrow the Islamic Republic.

As we are aware, from the very outset of the revolution's victory, our enemies have consistently strived and continue to strive to strike at the revolution and its gains by any possible means. Among the ways that can facilitate the implementation of this satanic plot of imperialism is depriving Iran of international support, backing and solidarity, especially of socialist countries. For U.S. imperialism has observed through experience that as long as the Soviet Union, the socialist camp and the international labor movement support the Iranian revolution, it cannot implement its plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran by any kind of conspiracy and provocation. Therefore, it endeavors to implement this satanic plan within the country through the counterrevolution and by the hands of its agents and mercenaries who are calling themselves the Hezbollahis.

These mercenary groups, whose instigators are guided by the CIA, one day assault the true revolutionary organizations, another day attack a gathering of the revolution's supporters and deprive the people of freedom, and now--according to the CIA plan and prescription--they have attacked the Soviet Embassy in Tehran. More unfortunate is that all these criminal and willful acts take place in the presence of security officials, and no one has ever thought of preventing the willful acts of these mercenary elements. The attack on the Soviet Embassy in Tehran--which was carried out purely according to the CIA plan--is in the opinion of our homeland's people a condemned act, an act that besmirches the prestige of our Islamic Republic, for it looks in the eyes of the people of the world as though, following the revolution, there does not exist in Iran something called a government and law.

We all know that Brzezinski has bluntly said that in order to weaken the foreign policy positions of the Khomeyni regime, termination of diplomatic support, particularly by the Soviet Union, is an imperative matter. Presently the Hezbollahis have taken a practical step in this direction, the USSR Government has rightly protested strongly against this adventurous and counterrevolutionary act by club-wielding elements, all of whom are fed from the CIA manager and who have been inspired by elements like the Qotbzadehs.

Our homeland's people--who through their glorious revolution have expelled Satan and his American overlords--have observed and continue to observe through experience that from the very first days of the revolution the Soviet Government has sincerely and unsparingly supported and continues to support the Iranian revolution.

From the international viewpoint it has played an effective role in thwarting the plots, conspiracies and provocations of U.S. imperialism and the Zionists. The Iranian people value this support, backing and solidarity of the Soviet Government and nation. By attacking the Soviet Embassy, extremist and mercenary groups attempted to undermine friendship between [word indistinct] the two meighboring and friendly countries. Their aim is to isolate the Islamic Republic, depriving Iran of the support of progressive governments and forces in the international arena and weakening it in the face of the plots of world-devouring U.S. imperialism. The counterrevolution has raised its head throughout the entire country [words indistinct]. It is incumbent upon our nation and upon the political and revolutionary parties to watch the plots of the enemies and to rise to safeguard the gains of the revolution through integration and through unity of word and action. [sentence indistinct]

NVOI LAUDS LATE SHI'A SCHOLAR'S PHILOSOPHY

GF011340 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1930 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Dear compatriots and Muslim brothers: Arba'sin-e Hoseynei is the day to renew the pledge with an enlightened and valiant personage such as Hoseyn, ibn 'Ali, leader of the martyrs and his faithful followers, who manfully confronted the forces of tyranny and oppression of the house of Mo'aviyeh on the day of 'Ashura and sacrificed their lives in the path of truth, liberty and freedom of conscience. The ideology of Hoseyn's martyrdom remains a source of inspiration for all those battling for the cause of truth, liberty, and the faith and lofty status of humanity hundreds of years after the tragedy of Karbala'.

Hoseyn looked at Islamic principles through the eyes of a revolutionary--with the eyes of 'Ali ibn Abu Talib. Hoseyn knew that Islam is the doctrine of equality and fraternity and is based on the principle of universal brotherhood of the faithful. Hoseyn knew that the establishment of a society based on justice constitutes the foundation and substance of the religion of Islam. The holy prophet [as heard] repeatedly stressed in the Koran the need for such a society.

Hoseyn knew that in the true Islam not only is exercising and enduring tyranny forbidden but, especially according to the Shi'a belief, so is surrender to the forces of tyranny. Islam is the religion of struggle and jihad. So it is not without reason that Hoseyn ibn 'Ali says that life is based on faith and jihad. Khomeyni in his Veplayat-e Faqih says that Hoseyn's life shows that his crusade was in the path of faith and belief, freedom and independence, in the struggle to retrieve lost rights, in collaboration with the oppressed and the victimized, in the elimination of despotism and despots and for evolution, culture, knowledge and excellence. Islam is against prejudice and coercion. In this way, Islam, in its true and revolutionary sense, is always at loggerheads with prejudice, force and oppression. Hoseyn's movement is one of the most outstanding models of this struggle. The late Dr Shari'sati has some charming and mature observations in this respect, wherein he says that the Safavi spiritualist is biased as opposed to the Shi'a scholar--and blindly so, since he did not have the capacity of tolerance--he even lacked the ability to comprehend the tenets or beliefs of others. If you look at your contemporaries today, you will observe many who are like the clergymen of the dark, repressive, medieval era who are ensconced in prejudice and ignorance against the originality of the Shi'a trend of thought, who do not wish to--and cannot--see any other viewpoint besides their own. Long live the memory of Dr Shari'ati, who in his writings elucidated the schism between Safavi Shi'ism and Alavi Shi'ism [opposing schools of Shi'ite thought]. Perceptively and creatively understanding Alavi Shi'ism, which is characterized by an abstention of stagnation of thought and blind prejudice, Dr Shari'ati says: The Shi'a scholar has always been known in the history of Islam for freedom of speech, protest and forceful expression of his opinions.

He has always preferred conflict of opinions and scientific confrontation. If Dr Shari'ati were alive, he could see some individuals, even those in authority, who are wallowing in the quagmire of prejudice and inertia of thought--to the extent that not only are they intolerant of others' opinions but also greet every logical discussion and scientific opinion with threats and clubs and appellations of "infidel," "pagan" and "hypocrite." They have brought things to a juncture where even in the environs of knowledge, even in the precincts of theological knowledge, or in the university, controversies about opinions and differing beliefs, whether social or philosophical, are considered sinful. In practice, they have put themselves in the shoes of the Safavi Shi'as.

Long live the memory of Dr Shari'ati who, with due attention to this struggle of religious apartheid in his interesting work "Religion Versus Religion," says: With 'Ali and the movement which immortalized the spirit of Islam and facilitated its continuation was not faithlessness and atheism which had risen in revolt but a kind of doctrine beside this creed which in Dr Shari'ati's view arose from division of stratas of society into the noble and ignoble, slave and master, the profiteer and the exploited, the free and the imprisoned. The epic of Hoseyn's martyrdom became well known as an ideology of freedom, martyrdom and sacrifice. Hoseyn's feud with Yazid and the oppressive court of Mo'aviyeh sprang not from the superficial trimmings of prayers and reading of the Koran, consent, or other surface adornments but from the issue of the freedom of conscience and defense of the rights of the oppressed in society. The termination of retrogression of thought, and eradication of blind prejudices. For these reasons, all true forces of the revolution worship the ideology of Hoseyn and the beliefs of 'Ali and draw inspiration from them.

NVOI COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC ISSUES

23 Dec Commentaries

TA232021 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 23 December carried two commentaries.

The first, entitled "Revolutionary Councils Are the Support of the Revolution," said: As we all know, the toiling people of our homeland have shown great heroism and self-sacrifice before, during and after the revolution. The toilers of both cities and villages have always stood in the front lines of the revolution and it was these toilers who stood before the tanks and guns of the corrupt regime, finally providing for the victory of the revolution. Revolutionary councils both before and during the revolutionary struggles have played a big role in creating concord among revolutionary forces for preparing big demonstrations for resisting against the sadist SAVAK forces, in helping needy people and in preparing arms and food.

Undoubtedly, these councils could also be able to occupy an important role after the revolution for building the new Iran and thwarting counterrevolutionary plots. These councils could have constructively cooperated with institutions of the revolution in the vital task of increasing the level of agricultural and industrial products, revealing centers of subversive elements and redressing the country's industry. But the temporary government unfortunately delivered a strong blow to the revolutionary councils.

During the sensitive period in which a war has been imposed on the people of our country by elements of U.S. imperialism in our region, once again the importance of truly revolutionary councils is made clear. It was not without cause that from the beginning of this imposed war, the prime minister in a statement to the nation advised the nation to prepare itself by using the experiences of its struggles against the corrupt Pahlavi regime to foil the plots of counterrevolution and imperialism.

During the past months we have witnessed the bitter truth that counterrevolution in the persons of big landowners and capitalists are striving to take advantage of this imposed war for creating discord in the society, creating discontent, rumormongering and resorting to other various plots.

As the responsible officials have well recognized, the popular and revolutionary councils can prepare the ground for the active participation of all those who are true to the Islamic Republican regime for assisting the government and leaders of the revolution.

The second commentary, entitled "The Reactionary Regimes of the Region Are the Common Foes of the Iranian and Afghan Nations," states: As-Sadat has recently resorted to a new treachery. This number one enemy of revolutionary Islam this time, at the orders of Washington, along with Ziaul Haq has started direct interventions against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. According to Western and Egyptian newspapers, As-Sadat has allocated $1.5 million for assistance to Afghan counterrevolutionaries. Thus the unorthodox alliance against the DRA has been created consisting of As-Sadat, the leaders of the middle-ages regime of Saudi Arabia, the traitorous Qabus, the leader of Pakistan and the leaders of Maoist China and headed by world-devouring America.

The progressive forces of our country had and have always warned that groups who under the pretext of defending the Islam of Brzezinski and the Islam of As-Sadat, resort to hatching plots and carrying out subversive activities against the DRA and revolutionary Islam are counterrevolutionaries who are guided directly by the CIA and intelligence organizations of reactionary regimes in the region.

After having reviewed the regimes hostile to the DRA, let us review the relations of these countries with the Islamic Republican regime of Iran. The middle-aged regimes of Saudi Arabia and Oman, the allies of the bloodthirsty regime of Mohammad Reza, have proceeded in opposition against the Islamic regime of Iran from the very beginning and in the course of the imposed war on our homeland have overtly placed themselves on the side of the enemies of revolutionary Iran. The regime of Ziaul Haq, in close collaboration with Maoist China and at the orders of U.S. imperialism, is constantly hatching plots and provocations against Iran and we can cite the dispatching of subversive and counterrevolutionary groups to Sistan va Baluchistan Province as an example. As-Sadat, too, has gathered former regime elements in Egypt, and placed Egyptian territory at the disposal of U.S. military units for carrying out a direct aggression against Iran. Regarding the United States, the imam has justly said that it is the enemy number one of the Iranian nation. Our enemies and the enemies of the Afghan nation are the same and consequently we, two Muslim and brotherly and neighboring nations should be on the same side for struggling against the joint enemies, and not assisting a group of criminals and bandits, or participating even indirectly in the crimes they commit in Afghanistan. The existence of two sovereign, independent and anti-imperialist countries in the region and the close friendship between these two Muslim countries is the biggest blow to U.S. imperialism and its allies in the region and the greatest help for the strengthening of revolutionary Islam and the Islam of Khomeyni.

24 Dec Commentary

TA241854 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 24 December carried a commentary entitled "Let Us Be Precise, Alert and Decisive in Sensitive Issues," which said that now that the discussions between the deceased shah's sister, Ashraf, and officials of the U.S. Republican Party have been revealed, it has become obvious that the Americans do not desist from hatching any kind of ploy and conspiracy to overthrow the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Quoting reliable U.S. sources, Western newspapers wrote that overthrowing the existing regime in Iran is one of the most important tasks of the foreign policy of the U.S. administration. In order to achieve this satanic goal officials of the U.S. Republican Party advised Ashraf that opponents of the present regime should devote more attention to the army and the armed forces and should exert their efforts to have their supporters establish close relations with the responsible authorities.

Bearing in mind the current conditions in our country one should not and cannot be indifferent to the plots of our enemies, particularly in respect to the army and the armed forces. There is no doubt that as a result of the victory of the Iranian nation's revolution, the former imperial army was crushed and the foundation of a people's army has been laid. However, this does not mean that all our armed forces have been cleansed from filthy and suspicious elements and that all its command structure is faithfully and sincerely serving the revolution's line. There are those who in the former army had close relations with the United States and who for this reason were dismissed from the Army of the Islamic Republic. However, following the start of the imposed war they have found the opportunity suitable and have declared themselves ready to allegedly defend the homeland and to return to the ranks of the army. One should not be negligent even for one moment, because it is possible that army personnel of the former regime, by implementing the instructions of their American overlords and the liberal bourgeois, have changed their appearance and under the pretext of supporting the Islamic Republic of Iran want to have a close relationship with the responsible officials and rejoin the ranks of the army. One should be alert, vigilant and precise in this sensitive issue.

25 Dec Commentaries

TA252024 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 25 December carried two commentaries:

The first entitled "A Hackneyed Method for Confirming Neutrality," said that Mr Nabavi, the government's spokesman, during a recent press conference made certain remarks which should not have been made. It is difficult to believe that what Mr Nabavi said in this press conference is the view of the government or the view of realistic government officials. In this conference, after once again referring to the phrase, neither East nor West, and after placing world-devouring America--this number one enemy of the Iranian revolution--on the same plane with the Soviet Union--the friend of the Iranian nation and the supporter of the revolution and the Islamic Republic--he claimed that Iran has declared war on all the superpowers on the basis of its policy of neither East nor West.

Sometimes statements by certain officials in our country are so divorced from responsibility and devoid of any logic that it seems that these gentlemen have either closed their eyes to the facts of life or are so lost in the realm of imagination, fanaticism and prejudice that they cannot see the facts. Although during the press conference Mr Nabavi tried to place the friends and foes of the Iranian nation on the same plane, he contradicted himself when asked about the plot of the United States in the Persian Gulf. Mr Nabavi said that we must warn the Persian Gulf states to be vigilant in the face of such U.S. plots. He added that having failed in its plans to exploit the war imposed on Iran, the United States now wanted to achieve its aims by other means, the most important of which is the overthrow of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

You justly say that the most important aim of world-devouring America is the overthrow of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran; then why do you resort to such terms as the superpowers? Is it because the gentlemen want to demonstrate that they are very neutral and that they look to the East and West with the same view? This method of dealing with the friends and enemies of the Iranian nation has become so hackneyed that it is difficult to find a simpleton in our homeland who will be affected by it. The class and revolutionary awareness of the Iranian people has reached such a stage that they can distinguish between the friends and foes of the Iranian revolution. Those who are striving to divert public opinion from the number one enemy of the Iranian nation--world-devouring America--are only wasting their time.

The second commentary, entitled "A Few Words With the Acquitters of the Liberal Bourgeois," stated that the compromising liberal bourgeois is engaged in striking blows at the gains of the revolution on a very extensive front. If the Iranian nation's revolution has changed everything to the roots, Iran's liberal bourgeois has risen with the aim of changing the goals of the revolution itself. The revolution of the Iranian people was a popular and anti-imperialist revolution. However, Iran's liberal bourgeois wants to divert this revolution from its principle line. It wants a constitution without a shah and wishes to revive the previous era. It wants to establish a regime in which a small minority of capitalists, exploiters, big landowners and middlemen of Western monopolies will enjoy freedom in the real meaning of the word, and in which U.S. imperialism and its Western allies will continue giving orders.

Under the pretext of defending the constitution and constitutional principles the liberal bourgeois is attempting to demonstrate that it has the same position as the president and that it should be counted among his disciples. By taking into consideration the bitter fact that certain attempts are being made to justify and acquit the liberals, even in some newspapers close to the president himself, the concern of the Iranian people cannot but intensify. During years of bloody struggle against despotism and dictatorship it was this same compromising liberal bourgeois, which now is calling for freedom, that during all the sensitive revolutionary stages betrayed the Iranian people. The freedom desired by the liberal bourgeois is nothing more than freedom to exploit and to suck the blood of millions of Iranian toilers and the deprived by a handful of capitalists, feudalists and foreign middlemen and their overseas masters. Our homeland's people and the true forces of the revolution are fully acquainted with the liberal bourgeois and its nature and aim and will never allow the region to be transformed into a plaything in the hands of the liberals or any other political force.

27 Dec Commentaries

GF271919 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 and 1800 GMT on 27 December carried two commentaries.

The first, entitled "A Few Words About Recent Events in Our Homeland," said that the imam, in a speech to Mashhad citizens, said that the thing we most need today is peace. Internal disagreements make us vulnerable. We are destroying ourselves. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i also mentioned the same point in his Friday sermon. It is of revolutionary importance to pay attention to these reminders.

The first condition for complying would be to follow the Constitution and respect individual rights. In some cases the terms of the Constitution have been trampled upon. This has happened mostly to true revolutionary forces and organizations while "liberal" compromising groups enjoy complete freedom. They are dealing blows to the revolution by misuse of this freedom and fanning the fire of discontent. If the freedom of true revolutionary organizations had really been respected, these bases of the revolution would have played their role in neutralizing the counterrevolutionaries. At present, considering the limitations on these groups and the attacks by the revolutionary club wielders, these true forces of the revolution still play an important role in revealing the plots of the counterrevolutionaries.

Events have taken place in parts of the country that have made the leaders of the revolution concerned. Such events are plots by the enemies of the revolution or events created by known groups or elements or strikes. The attacks against Mojahedin-e Khalq and the resultant bloody fight in Tehran are one example of events created by counterrevolutionaries and other such elements. Ayatollah Kani gave an ultimatum to the extremist leftist and rightist groups not to involve themselves in judicial or disciplinary matters.

In the present circumstances, when there is the imposed war and strong disagreement between high government officials, the enemies of the revolution are most active seeking to exploit such events. The imam has reminded the nation of the need for unity in word and action. This is of vital importance at present situation for our nation. To achieve this we would first deal with the counterrevolutionaries and those who attack the headquarters of true revolutionary organizations.

The second, entitled "The Reactionary Regimes of the Area are the Common Enemy of the Muslim Iranian and Afghan Nations," said the Egyptian president has attempted more treason. This No one enemy of revolutionary Islam this time, on orders from Washington and hand-in-hand with the Zia's, has started direct intervention in the Dei cratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA]. According to Western media and even Egyptian papers, As-Sadat has allocated about $1.5 million to Afghan counterrevolutionaries. This is an unholy alliance between As-Sadat, the leaders of the middle-aged regime of Saudi Arabia, the traitor Qabus and the leader of the military regime in Pakistan, as well as the Chinese Maoist leaders, against the DRA under the leadership of the world-devouring United States.

All these murderers who commit treason against their own nations continue their actions in the name of defense of Islam and the so-called Muslim Afghan fighters. The progressive forces of our homeland have always warned that groups which plot against revolutionary Islam in the name of the defense of Brzezinski and As-Sadat's Islam are counterrevolutionaries controlled by the CIA and the spy network of the reactionary regimes of the area. The trials in our country showed that these so-called Afghan fighters are involved in drug trafficking and also aid counterrevolutionary Iranians. These are the names of the regimes which aid the so-called Afghan Muslim fighters: Saudi Arabia and Oman, the regime of Zia, As-Sadat's regime, the Chinese Maoist regime and, at the head of all these, world-devouring U.S. imperialism and the colonial British regime and their Western allies. They do their utmost to topple the regime of the DRA.

The regimes in Saudi Arabia and Oman, who were allies of the blood-sucking regime of Mohammad Reza, have been against the Islamic Republic's regime since its conception and sided with our enemy since start of the war. Zia's regime, on the orders of U.S. imperialism and in cooperation with the Maoist Chinese regime, continuously plots against the Iranian regime. We can cite its sending of guerrilla groups to Sistan va Baluchestan as an example. Traitor As-Sadat has gathered idolatrous elements in Egypt and has allowed the use of Egyptian land for direct military aggression against Iran.

Our enemies and those of the Afghan nation are the same. Consequently, we should unite and aid each other against our common enemy instead of indirectly participating in murders committed by a group of bandits. The presence of two free and anti-imperialist countries in the area and their close friendship is the biggest blow to U.S. imperialism and its allies in the area and one of the biggest means of strengthening revolutionary Islam and Khomeyni's Islam.